

## **VI. Public Involvement**

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Since the passage of the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), the emphasis on public involvement in transportation has taken on a new role. Although public participation has been an element of long range transportation planning in the past, these regulations call for a much more proactive approach. The NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch has a long history of making public involvement a key element in the development of any long-range transportation plan, regardless the size of the planning area. This chapter is designed to provide an overview of the public involvement elements implemented into the development of the City of Eden CTP.

The Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization (PTRPO) requested the development of a comprehensive transportation plan for the City of Eden through a prioritized list of regional needs. A meeting was held with the Eden City Council February of 2006 to formally initiate the study, provide an overview of the transportation planning process, and to gather input on their transportation needs.

Throughout the course of the study, the TPB met with the Eden City Planning staff, as well as other groups and individual with vested interest in the CTP, to provide plan information, to discuss population and employment projections, and to discuss the proposed recommendations.

A transportation and land use survey was conducted in late 2006 to solicit feedback from the public in regards to the future of transportation in the City of Eden. This was delivered to the citizens of Eden through their monthly utility bills as well as available at the local library and online at the City of Eden's website, the PTRPO's website, and the NCDOT – TPB's website. Almost 400 responses were received from this survey. The results of this survey are located in Appendix G.

Public Meetings and a public hearing were held in the City of Eden to solicit comments from the public as well as present the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

A meeting was held on October 19-20, 2006 at the Leaksville United Methodist Church. This was a City of Eden "Visioning Meeting" presented by the group "The Advocates for Eden." There were a total of four presentations (two on each day) conducted to interested parties in regards to transportation planning in the City of Eden. Public comments and suggestions were also taken at this time.

An informational meeting was also held on September 23, 2008 at 5:30 pm during the regularly scheduled Eden Planning Board Meeting. This gave local